(c) to (e) The latest edition of the Manual regarding the use of the Official Language Hindi brought out by the Department of Official Language was issued to all Missions abroad on 12.1.1999. It has been the endeavour of our Missions to follow the guidelines to the extent possible.

Talks with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh

3337. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to stale:

(a) whether Government have discussed with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh Governments as regards to the use of their territories by Indian insurgents against our country; and

(b) if so, what are the responses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Government of India is aware and concerned about the misuse of Nepalese territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest. Reports received by the Government indicate evidence of Indian extremist elements from Punjab and Kashmir, with the help of ISI, using Nepal as a staging post for terrorist activities directed against India and the Nepalese Government have been sensitised on this issue.

Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal, particularly with regard to effective border management. The concerned agencies of the two Governments remain in regular touch to coordinate efforts to tackle this problem. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks, which have been evolved to specifically develop cooperation on security matters and to address these concerns. In pursuance of the decisions taken in these meetings, both sides have agreed to jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous bordfer districts of India and Nepal, to prevent misuse of the open India-Nepal border for activities directed against India. On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in 'his regard.

The presence of Indian militants on Bhutanese territory has been a subject of discussion with Bhutan. Both sides share concern on this issue. India and

Bhutan remain in constant touch to find a solution to this issue and are cooperating with each other in this regard. The Government of Bhutan have reiterated that they would not allow their territory to be misused against the interests of India.

The Government of India has been regularly taking up with Bangladesh various security related matters including cross-border terrorism and activities of Indian insurgents in Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. The subject was discussed during the India-Bangladesh Home Secretary-level talks held in New Delhi in April 2000. The Bangladesh side assured the Indian side that they would not allow undesirable elements to use Bangladesh territory for activities prejudicial to the security interests of India.

Redefining relationship with Nepal

3338. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a strong move in Nepal for redefining its relations with India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Nepal has been insisting upon a review of the friendship treaty of 1950 between India and Nepal;

(c) if so the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal for the review for abrogation of the aforesaid has been received formally from the Nepalese Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) In recent years, there has been a tendency among certain elements in Nepal to attempt to raise popular sentiments on issues related to India-Nepal relations through the media and public posturing. However, given the essential stability and permanence of the relationship, such attempts by vested interests are unlikely to affect the friendly ties existing between the two countries.

(b) to (e) The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship was concluded with the objective of formalising the close relations between the two countries. The